

REMARKS

In response to the final Office action mailed on October 20, 2005, applicant files this amendment to the application along with a Request for Continued Examination. Applicant is submitting a new set of claims directed to novel aspects of building structures disclosed in the pending application which provide a plastic building with the ability to adapt in response to environmental changes such as fluctuations in ambient temperature.

More specifically, new claim 56 is directed to a roof system which utilizes an assembly of components that connect panels via rafters to create an incline roof. As shown in Figures 17 and 25, panels are connected on opposite sides of a roof rafter through use of a cap member, 210 in Figure 17, 228 in Figure 25. Unlike structures shown in the prior art of record, use of the cap member allows panels to be laid down between rafters before placing the cap over the outer side of the rafter to secure the panels in place. This is a significant assembly advantage compared to the structures shown in the prior art in which adjacent plastic structural components must slide into engagement. Without using the capping system, as recited in new claim 56, roof panels would need to slide along the entire length of the rafters which is not feasible with long structural members.

Another important structural feature of the roof system described in the new set of claims, relates to how the roof panel is fixed in place to permit expansion and contraction of roof panels in response to significant temperature changes. As recited in new dependent claim 62, the top end of the roof panel is fixed to the ridge beam structure. The other end of the roof panel rests in sliding contact with a horizontal beam placed at the top of a wall. This is shown in Figure 19 and is discussed beginning on line 27, page 24 through line 1 on page 25. The drawings on pages 73, 74, 96, 98 and 90 show the connection between a roof panel and a ridge beam. Plastic building components expand and contract significantly in response to swings in ambient temperature. Therefore, it is important for roof panels to be fixed at the top end, but free to slide over the wall at the other end.

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests any roof system utilizing a cap device to secure panels on opposite sides of a rafter. Further, none of the prior art

of record teaches or suggests the claimed roof assembly which permits a roof panel to slide over a wall beam as the panel expands and contracts. Therefore, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Support for the New Claims

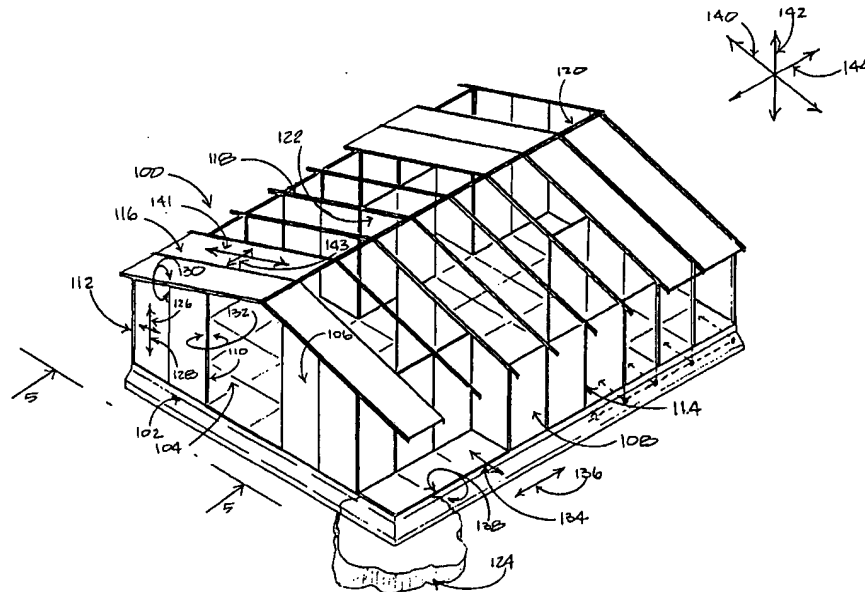


Fig. 1

Figure 1 from the application shows a plastic building including plastic walls erected in parallel planes. Roof panels 116 are shown mounted between rafters 118.

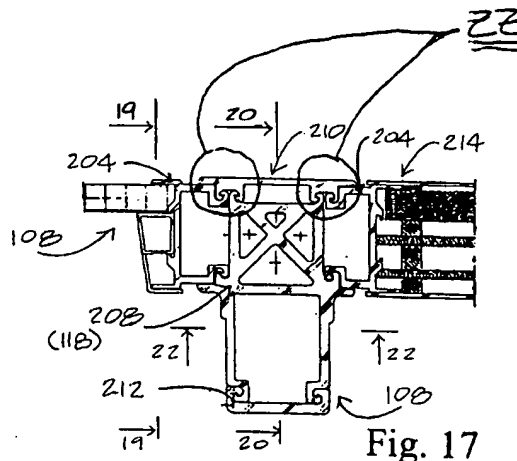
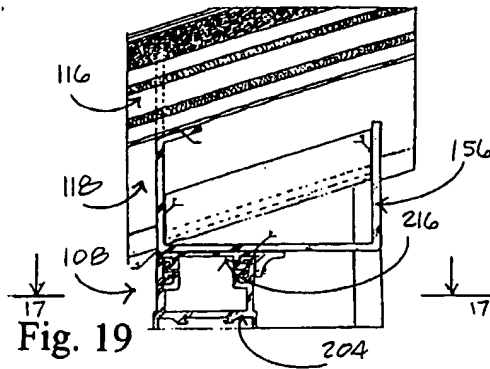


Fig. 17

Figure 17 shows an assembly which the specification (beginning on page 25, line 10) states may be viewed as a cross-sectional view of a rafter such as rafter 118, joined

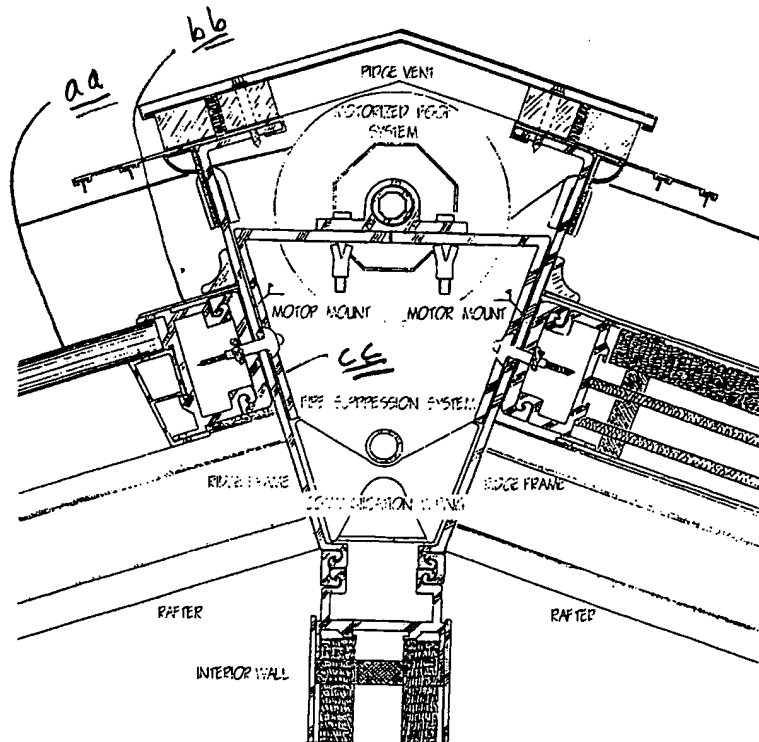
Fig. 28

The confronting ends of these two rafter structures are anchored as by bolting to a pair of plates shown at 240 in Fig. 28, which plates are angularly disposed relative to one another as is shown, and form part of previously mentioned roof ridge beam structure 120.



New dependent claim 61 is supported by Figure 19. Figure 19 shows the lower end of roof panel 116 as it passes over horizontal beam 156 at the top of a wall. Beginning on line 31 of page 24 of the specification it states "an upper flange shown in Figure 19 in beam 156 slidably engages the underside of the roof panel structure 116."

New dependent claim 62 is supported in the drawings shown on pages 73, 74, 96, 98, 99. For example, the drawing from page 96 is shown below:



Roof panel aa has an outer frame component bb bolted to ridge beam structure cc.

In conclusion, applicant has provided a new set of claims directed to structural features of preferred designs for a plastic building which provide important benefits relating to assembly, and adaptability to accommodate variations in the environment such as fluctuations in ambient temperature. Applicant has demonstrated in detail how the claims are supported by the specification. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, and prompt allowance of the pending claims. Please contact applicant's undersigned attorney if there are any additional issues to address.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on April 20, 2006.

Pamela A. Knight
Date of Signature: April 20, 2006

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